

NH Bureau of EMS-Bulletin

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 6

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2011

Message from the Bureau Chief

EMT-I CONVERSION PROCESS: The first meeting of the EMT-I Conversion Task Force was held at the NH Fire Academy on November 9th. There were 45 attendees representing a wide variety of services and different areas of the state. The focus of the first meeting was twofold; first an explanation of the reason the Bureau of EMS has made the decision to adhere to the National Registry requirements for EMT-I's to convert to Advanced EMT's (AEMT). The foundation for that decision is the importance of enhancing the professionalism of EMS by adhering to consistent national guidelines. In order to accomplish that EMT-I's in NH will have to successfully complete the National Registry's cognitive exam for the AEMT level at some point during their next two refresher cycles. As you might guess there was considerable discussion among the members regarding the rationale.

The second focus of the meeting was to begin planning for the development of a number of educational "tools" to be able to reach out to the EMT-I community in NH and help them to pass the exam. It was recognized that this will be a costly process, anxiety producing, and will need to address the learning styles and logistics of a variety of providers. The group brainstormed on a number of ideas to pursue. Bureau staff are now compiling the results of that exercise for the next meeting, at which we will begin to flesh out the plans and assign subcommittees to work on the components.

Any individual who feels that they have something to contribute to the process is welcome to attend future meetings. If you are interested please let me know by email and I'll put you on the membership list. Clay.odell@dos.nh.gov

-Clay Odell,

Bureau Chief of the NH Bureau of EMS

Education Section

Refresher Process Q&A

Thank you to all of the instructor/coordinators and providers who attended the Refresher Process Q&A sessions late summer and early fall. There was positive feedback about the changes and enthusiasm about a whole new outlook on the refresher course itself.

Course Audits

As part of the charge of the Commissioner's Refresher Process Ad Hoc Committee we have moved the financial and human resources previously dedicated to refresher practical exams to course audits. A group of 15 part-time employees were trained to conduct course audits in September. We are happy to report that the auditors are finding

what we had hoped they would; excellent EMS education in NH's EMS classrooms. The audit process is still new and a learning process for all of us. Thank you to our I/Cs for working with us through this process.

Instructor Cabinet Update

The Instructor Cabinet continues to meet the first Friday of the even months. They continue to serve as a valuable advisory think-tank on emerging educational trends and system changes. Region 3 recently appointed a new representative; the Cabinet welcomes Kevin Jenckes to the group. Thank you to Richard Murphy Jr., for representing Region 3 on the Cabinet so admirably over the last several years.

Inside this issue:

Education Section	1
Research & Quality Management	1
Advanced Life Support	2
Field Services	2
Trauma & Emergency Preparedness	2

Research & Quality Management

The TEMSIS system will be upgrading to Version 5 on November 29th. This upgrade will benefit providers with faster loading times, new features, including the addition of a Carbon Monoxide data element and more screen space for viewing the runform. The biggest change will be in the visual layout of the home page. We will be sending out literature describing all of the updates including a link to a test site prior to the transition.

The EMS survey report is in draft form and should be complete and available by the beginning of December. The winning participating services for the medical supplies reimbursement incentive drawing are:

Transport services: Barrington Fire and Rescue: \$200
Enfield FAST Squad: \$100
45th Parallel: TEMSIS consult with BEMS

Non-Transport Services: Langdon Fire and Rescue: \$200
Rindge Fire Department: \$100
Lakes Region Mutual Aid: TEMSIS consult with BEMS

Advanced Life Support

PIFT Audits: We currently have 33 approved PIFT EMS units. To date we have conducted 4 PIFT audits. Clinical coordinators have been friendly and cooperative, providing positive experiences throughout our visits. We have found, in general, the PIFT units need assistance getting their quality management programs up and running. We have provided materials and examples to assist in the development and execution of these programs and look forward to our follow up visits to see the progress they have achieved. We will continue to audit each PIFT unit throughout the upcoming months.

STEMI/Stroke Summit: Save the date for June 5, 2012 when we will be hosting a summit to look at point of entry plans for STEMI and stroke patients; more information to come in January.

Protocols: The following protocols will be discussed at the Medical Control Board meeting this month: Newborn Care, Newborn Resuscitation, OB, Seizure, Shock, Smoke Inhalation. The Medical Control Board will be looking at an Extended Care Guideline as well as potential extended protocols for the following: Adrenal Insufficiency, Allergic Reaction, Fever. Copies of these protocols can be found at: <http://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/ems/documents/mcbmaterials.pdf>

Trauma & Emergency Preparedness



Trauma Hospital Participation

St Joseph Hospital has successfully completed the renewal application process and is now recognized as an Adult Trauma Level III and Pediatric Trauma Level III Hospital. Congratulations and keep up the great work!

Four other hospitals are currently in the renewal application process and two hospitals who have not previously been active in the state's trauma system, Speare and Wentworth- Douglas, have recently asked about becoming actively involved.

Emergency Preparedness Conference Planning

Our section is working with the Emergency Preparedness Conference planning committee to create some interesting options for emergency responders. If you haven't been to the June conference before now, this will be the year to attend!

Injury Prevention Stories Needed

If any EMS units are involved in injury prevention efforts in their community, we want to hear about it! Please email Angela Shepard and tell her what your squad is doing. angela.shepard@dos.nh.gov

Field Services

EMS Unit Licenses – Form facelift

December 31, 2011 marks the expiration date for all licensed EMS Units and Wheelchair van-for-hire Company licenses in New Hampshire. Re-application packets have been mailed and along with the packets a new application format is being rolled out.

As with more and more of the Division's forms, the Unit application form is now on-line as an interactive PDF document. This makes the form more legible which is more efficient for data entry and processing. The new form has drop-down boxes with standardized responses. The form should be completed on-line, printed off, dated and signed and then mailed in to the Bureau of EMS for processing. The form lists the required documentation that must be submitted with the completed application.

All license applications will each be reformatted in this same manner over the next few weeks. Until these are each complete, the older versions of paperwork will be accepted so as not to hold up the license application process.